

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

## Wilson Compton Praised, Fired

By Drew Pearson

### Jittery Dulles

Most jittery man in the State Department today is its new chief, John Foster Dulles. He has been so upset by the McCarthy probe that he makes snap decisions, ignores the steady advice of Undersecretary General "Beetle" Smith, an old hand at Government.

Last week, Alfred Morton, head of the Voice of America in New York, sent a "proposed" directive to Washington on the question of quoting from Stalin, Karl Marx, and other Communist leaders.

The directive was sent over the regular teletype linking the State Department's office in New York with the main office in Washington, and, like all such messages, it was automatically coded. Addressed to W. B. Connors, assistant administrator, Office of Policy and Plans, the proposed directive actually reached Senator McCarthy even before it reached Connors—just how, McCarthy is not telling.

In fact, a McCarthy staff member called Connors to tell him about the proposed directive even before he'd read it. Since the code is the same as that used for top secret transmissions of the Army, Navy, State Department, and Central Intelligence, the leak was serious.

The leak of a top-secret message was not what seemed to concern Secretary Dulles, however. Instead he hit the ceiling over the fact that Voice Chief Morton in New York appeared to differ with Washington over quoting Stalin, Marx, et al. Morton is a former vice president

of the National Broadcasting Co., has been in the radio business for years, has a long record for opposing communism.

### Snap Decision

However, nervous Dulles immediately suspended him. Difference of opinion regarding a directive, even when that difference was expressed in a secret, coded message, was not to be tolerated. Morton was summoned to Washington.

Arriving there, it developed that his message was only a "proposed directive," sent to the State Department for its advice and approval. Second, Morton

pointed out that the best way to refute the words of Stalin or Marx was usually to quote them.

In the end, Morton was reinstated but the directive against quotations kept. No explanation has been given or sought as to how Senator McCarthy obtained a copy of a coded teletype message even before it was read by the recipient official in Washington.

Note—Personnel of the State Department's information administration has been more thoroughly checked and investigated than any other branch of the department. This is required under Public Law 402 setting up the information program.

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